

The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart & St Columba

Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.



PARISH NEWSLETTER 6 / 7 APRIL 2024 SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

St Columba Church

cnr Glenhantly & Normandy Rds
Elwood 3184

Sacred Heart Church

83 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182

St Columba Primary School

24 Glenhantly Road Elwood 3184
9531 6560; www.stcolumbasprimary.org

Sacred Heart Mission

87 Grey Street, St Kilda West 3182
9537 1166; www.sacredheartmission.org

PARISH HOUSE

2 Normandy Road, Elwood 3184
03 9531 6120; shsc@shscparish.org.au
www.shscparish.org.au

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St Columba Principal / REC:
Daniella Maddalena
dmaddalena@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Deputy Principal: Bern Bradley
bernb@scelwood.catholic.edu.au

Parish Safeguarding Committee:
Fr John Petrus, Christine Mitchell,
Daniella Maddalena, Jane Hearnese

Parish Visiting Team: Lay Pastoral Care Group; Legion of Mary Groups
Call or email the Parish Office.

St Vincent de Paul President: Dominic Tesoriero
domtess1@gmail.com

Elwood and St Kilda Legion of Mary
Please contact the parish office.

A Reflection on the Gospel

[An extract from an article by James Laurence, My Pastoral Ponderings]

Think again of what it would have been like for those first disciples, gathered together in the upper room that first Easter evening, which is when today's gospel reading begins. Think of what they witnessed in the days leading up to Easter: There was that emotional Thursday evening, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and shared a last supper with them. There was his agony in the garden, when those same disciples fell asleep as Jesus prayed. There was the betrayal by one of their own, Judas, and Jesus' arrest. The denial by Peter, the crowds shouting for Jesus to be crucified. His trial, his torture, and then, finally, his crucifixion. His burial in the tomb. And now, two days later, these stories from the woman who went to visit the tomb, that the tomb was empty, and Jesus was raised from the dead. Just imagine the swirl of emotions those disciples must have been feeling when Jesus came and stood among them that evening! They felt joy, of course. But also sadness over what Jesus went through. And confusion over what his resurrection meant. And fear; we know that they were very afraid. And, I strongly suspect, they felt guilt, too, over deserting Jesus, in his hour of need. And in response to all of that joy and sadness and confusion and fear and guilt, Jesus simply said: "Peace be with you."

What Jesus did on that first Easter evening was to show those frightened disciples the same grace and mercy and forgiveness and love that he always showed. He came and stood among them and simply said, "Peace be with you." And then, to ease their doubts, he showed them his hands and his side. No wonder the disciples rejoiced to see him! Not only was Jesus alive and among them, he had also forgiven them for all that they had done - and not done - over these last dramatic days.

We often read today's gospel reading and focus on Thomas, the doubting disciple who needed to put his finger in the marks of the nails before he would believe. But this story is really about all of those fear-filled disciples, trembling behind that locked door, and wondering what it all means. This story is really about each and every one of us: trying to live a life worthy of our Lord and Saviour; struggling with doubt, weighed down with fear, and constantly falling short of what we know that he expects from us. And this story is also about how Jesus comes to us, in the midst of our doubts and fears and sin and guilt, to offer each and every one of us that simple word of grace, and mercy, and forgiveness. "Peace be with you," says our risen Lord to us all...

But today's gospel reading is also about the ways in which we are called to share that peace and that joy, with a world so filled with doubt and fear. Jesus did not join his disciples in the upper room simply to celebrate his resurrection with them. He also joined them there to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit, and to send them to the world to continue his mission. The word "Apostle" literally means one who is sent. The word "Disciple," on the other hand, literally means one who learns. The disciples have learned from Jesus many things. By his words and his example, he has taught them about the Kingdom of God, and about our Heavenly Father's purpose for them and for the world. Now, these disciples are becoming apostles. Disciples who are sent into the world.. And he sends us out into the world in the same way. We are all apostles, members of the apostolic church. We are the sent-out people of God, with a mission... to breathe new life into this world through us...

We are the ones continuing Jesus' mission... Our words, our deeds, our hope, our faith, our love, our witness in our daily lives, our acts of love to others; all of this done in Jesus' name with the help of the Holy Spirit; all this is how the world catches a glimpse of our risen Lord. That is what it means to be an apostle, and that is what we are.

WARM WELCOME

Welcome to all who celebrate the Eucharist with us today, to the church communities across our parish and a special welcome to all who happen to be visiting our Parish.

SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT

Our Parish supports the recommendations of the Royal Commission and all endeavours to bring healing to and justice for the victims of abuse. Our Parish Leadership & Development Team and Safeguarding Committee work proactively to ensure the safety of all children, young people and vulnerable adults in our community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Today we stand in footsteps millennia old. May we acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the Kulin Nations, who are the traditional custodians of our parish land, whose cultures and customs have nurtured, and continue to nurture, this land since men and women awoke from the great dream.

We acknowledge their continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of Reconciliation.

WHERE ARE WE IN OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR?

We have now entered Easter Season. This season runs from 1 April to 19 May (Pentecost) in this year of 2024. It's fifty days from the Sunday of the Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday.

During the Easter Season, the Paschal Candle, a symbol of the Risen Christ among us remains near the altar or the ambo (lectern) until Pentecost Sunday. You will see that we have moved from our Lenten colour of purple, through to Red for Palm Sunday and Good Friday to white, the colour which represents light, a symbol of joy, purity and innocence. This second Sunday of Easter is also, Divine Mercy Sunday. On this day, we contemplate the fullness of the Paschal mystery – that is Christ's Passion, death and resurrection. The basis of the whole Easter mystery is the merciful love of God. At St John Paul II states, 'Believing in God's love means believing in mercy, for mercy is an indispensable dimension of love. It is as it were love's second name and at the same time, the specific manner in which love is revealed'. (Miseridordia #7).

SAVE THE DATE: A CULTURAL CELEBRATION.

A Cultural Celebration: International Dinner, Saturday 25 May 6pm in St Columba's Hall, Elwood.

A night of celebration of our multicultural community. There will be food, music and dancing highlighting the different cultures in our community. Come along and join in the festivities. This is a joint fundraiser by the parish and the school and will be our contribution to Dine with Heart which supports Sacred Heart Mission. would like to be a part of the preparations, please email Jane in the parish office, jane@shscparish.org.au or speak to Jeferson or Marita at St Columba or Adrian or Toni at Sacred Heart after mass.

OUR PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Life-giving God,
We give you thanks
For Jesus has risen.
He comes to us with words of peace
Come to us today.
In government rooms where politicians meet
In city board rooms where executives plan,
In court rooms where lawyers debate,
Come with words of peace.
In hospital rooms where people are waiting,
In prison cells where people are afraid
In homes where people struggle to make ends meet,
Come with words of peace.
Come to us whenever we are afraid
Whenever we are grieving
Come to us now we pray in silence
For those we care for and are worried about...
Despite the strong and solid doors we lock
To protect ourselves
To shut out the world
Come to us with words of peace.
This Easter breathe on us again
With your Spirit
For you have overcome evil
And wicked plots fail
And the cruelty of the world comes to nothing
And the betrayal and denial of friends do not prevail.
Renew us in the power of your Spirit
That we may open the doors
And go out into the world
To bring words of peace to the people we meet.
Renew us in the power of your Spirit
That we may have life in your name
And go wherever you send us
In Jesus' name.
Amen.

[Susan Miller (alt), and posted on the Church of Scotland's Starters for Sunday website. <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>]

PARISH COFFEE AND CHAT

The March coffee and chat gathering was lively! We had a review of the gatherings so far. Attendance has varied possibly because many medical

appointments are in the morning. We decided to change the time to 2.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. This gives us an opportunity to extend an invitation to school parents so they could attend en route to picking up children from school.

Our next gathering is **NEXT Wednesday 10 April at 2.00pm in the Parish House**. The following two will be 8 May and 12 June. Please put these dates in your diary and all are very welcome.



SACRED HEART MISSION

We warmly welcome **Hang Vo, CEO of Sacred Heart Mission, to 11.00 a.m. Mass.** Hang will remain for morning tea, so please introduce yourself and having a chat.

Volunteer with Sacred Heart Mission

Are you keen to get involved in your community? Would you like to make new friends or develop your skills? Then come and join us. Volunteering is a great way to give back, connect and upskill. Check out our current opportunities:

Volunteer Tai Chi instructor

A fun volunteering opportunity, we are looking for someone who has experience in teaching Tai Chi and can facilitate a weekly Tai Chi class for people with a diverse range of abilities and health conditions.

Community Visitor Volunteers

Become friends with an older person living in our aged care home and make a difference to their life. Many of our residents are from different cultural backgrounds and want to chat in their home language. If you speak a language in addition to English, we would love to hear from you.

Op Shop Volunteers

Join our fun-loving op shop team and help provide a welcoming atmosphere, make our stores look presentable and provide fantastic customer service. Our 14 op shops are spread across the metro area so please check us out and see if you can volunteer in your local community.

Please visit <https://www.sacredheartmission.org/get-involved/volunteer> if you'd like more information.

EXPLORING THE POPE'S TEACHING ON BELONGING

A new book guides people through an eight-day Ignatian retreat, but also provides insights into the spirituality, theology and pastoral practices of Pope Francis, according to its author, papal biographer Austen Ivereigh. Titled, *First Belong to God: A Retreat with Pope Francis*, the book outlines the Pope's concern for migrants and refugees, his focus on ecology, his calls to "go out" to share the good news of salvation, even his support for the controversial blessing of LGBTQ+ couples flow from his conviction that people need to know they belong to God, to one another and to creation.

"All the life-threatening crises that beset us around the world, from the ecological crisis to the wars, the injustices against the poor and vulnerable, have their roots in this rejection of our belonging to God and to each other," the Pope wrote.

Ivereigh said to understand Pope Francis and his teaching, it is helpful to understand - and even experience - the Spiritual Exercises of St Ignatius that have shaped his spirituality since he joined the Jesuits in 1958. In the book, Ivereigh has woven together a classic eight-day preached version of the Spiritual Exercises with five decades of spiritual reflections by the Pope.

"What Pope Francis has done with his bold 'the Church is for everyone' message is show that the Church exists to communicate the unconditional love of God for all his creatures, and that our conversion begins with embracing that truth," Ivereigh said.

Available through Loyola Press, Amazon, and Catholic book stores.

PODCAST: EXAMINING THE WORLD THROUGH A CATHOLIC CONTEXT

Scholar of faith and ethics, Hayden Ramsay has launched a podcast on the Sydney Archdiocese's network examining the world through a Catholic context. Called **Climbing the Sycamore - With Professor Hayden Ramsay**, the professor will be providing insight on all matters of contemporary culture, while also tackling what he describes as the four greatest questions of our time.

"Our Catholic identity is not just a tribal thing about where we belong. It's also the freedom to think for ourselves; Who is God? What is the world? How do I relate to people? And what is the morally right thing to do?" Each episode in the series will comprise two parts. Firstly, discussing the pressing issues of the day, while the second half of the show will see Professor Ramsay answering questions emailed by listeners.

"I have called the series Climbing the Sycamore because I think you need to change your position to see Jesus ever more fully and clearly," Professor Ramsay said. One key motivation for launching the series is concerns over the increasing polarisation in mainstream media, which has seen the erosion of respectful and genuine debate where unpopular views can be expressed politely and rationally. We really need to create more forums where people are encouraged to dig a little deeper in forming their own views and put their toes into other ponds and read or think about people they would not naturally be inclined to think about." Each episode will be available fortnightly on Thursday afternoons on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and *The Catholic Weekly* website.

CARITAS / PROJECT COMPASSION

Thank you to everyone who returned their project compassion boxes. So far, parishioners have donated \$1204,50 (including a \$1000 anonymous donation). Please feel free to return your remaining boxes to church or the parish office.

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL

We hope our St Columba school community is enjoying their holidays after another productive term.

Term 1 finished with a beautiful Easter liturgy and the Friendship Fair. The Fair is organised by the children, with each grade coming up with an idea to raise money for Project Compassion. Stalls included homemade lemonade, cookie decorating and nail / face decorating/massage. The children also dressed up and donated a gold coin. The Friendship Fair and school Project Compassion boxes raised an amazing \$1036.40. Congratulations and thank you to all the children and staff for a wonderful effort.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Acts 4: 32-35

Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: 1 John 5: 1-6

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20: 19-31

OUR LITURGICAL CALENDAR

MONDAY 8 April - SUNDAY 14 April 2024

MONDAY 11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Community
101 Grey Street, St Kilda West

12.30pm Funeral for Ellen Kolomanski
at St Columba Church

THURSDAY 11.00am Communion Service
at Sacred Heart Church

FRIDAY 9.00am MASS at the Parish House

SATURDAY 6.00pm MASS at St Columba Church

SUNDAY 9.00am MASS at St Columba Church
11.00am MASS at Sacred Heart Church
(this mass is also live streamed)
Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48

COLLECTIONS: Last weekend

Church Account Collection	Presbytery Account Collection	
Envelopes	\$112.00	Total \$335.85
Loose cash	\$255.55	
Total	\$367.55	
Average for 13 weeks	\$428.35	Average for 13 weeks \$252.74

SERVICE AND SUPPORT

Fr John and the parish team are so grateful for the wonderful support that continues to be given to him and the parish. You can contribute to the collections through Tithe.ly - click this link - [tithe.ly https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524](https://tithe.ly/give?c=911524) for once off or regular giving using your credit card or download the tithe.ly app. You can also contact Jane in the office to set up cash, direct debit or credit card payments. THANK YOU!

ST COLUMBA PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 3 of the St Columba newsletter is available here:
<https://newsletters.naavi.com/i/NjVzyON/issue-3/page/cover>

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

"Prayer is what keeps the faith, without it, faith wavers"

Pope Francis

All Recently Deceased: Ellen Kolomansky, Rodney Derick,
Donald Palwack, Michael Kelleher, Richard Davis

1st Anniversaries: Judy Vaitkunas 10.04, Victor Julio
Hernandes, Elsa Aurora Contreras Buitrago, Peter Orchard,
Nicoletta Pagnoni, Neil Kiely, John Courtney, Josef Kania

Anniversaries: Margherite & Clement Ahern, Patricia Gardner,
Ron Mitchell, Joanne Steele Virgilio Tarquinio, Graeme
Jajurdran, Kevin Durkin, Neville (Nabeh) Gittany 7.4.14, Mark
Kennedy, Michael Mongan, Marco D'Ambrosio, Pierina
Bevilacqua 5.4.20, Ray Monagle 5.4.20, Virgilio and Beatrice
Tarquinio, Margaret Cooper, Elena Torrejano, Mary Shea, Tom
Wood, Assunta Vinicio, Irma Semezyszym, Chris Gilligan, Elsie
O'Shaunessy, Angelo Mastrangelo, Angela Portelli, Sr Ann
Manning, Paolina Gurró-Isgró & Filippa Isgró, Joseph McHugh,
15.4.1979 Siobhan Green, Gayle DeAraugo, Leon La Gruta, Sr
Rose Murphy, Gus Carpenter, Nic Borgia, Fr Maurice Lou
Heriot, Ben & Shannon McAuliffe's twin baby girls, Fr Desmond
Byrne, Doreen Jewell, Helen Haddad, Neville Gittany, Sally
Marks 29.4.13 Marie Fisher 28.4, Merve Beard, Mavis Wylie 6.4,
David Nightingale, Michael Laraghy, Jurek Bebejewski, Tony
Fonti 24.4.09, Graeme Geebung, Stephanie Skukan, Bert Briglia,
Luke Domsek; John Philips 9.4.11, Jimmy Dalton 7.4.10, David
O'Donoghue 2010, Nunziata Panettieri, Geoffrey Cooper
19.4.95, John Joseph Doolan 18.4.00, Honor Josephine
Courtney 16.4.75, Kevin Donal Courtney 19.4.74, Michele
Pescatore, Maria Duca, Anthony Haddad, John Haddad, Allan
Amad, Vicky Amad, Debly Amad.

Sick: All in or connected with our Parish who are unwell.
Luke Dennis, Eddie, Alison Barry-Jones (Qld), Tony Wright
(Sydney), Chail and her husband Callum, Norma Childers (Texas
- Becca's grandma), Patrick McCaffrey, Seamus Quinn, Sue
McLennan, Liz Hawes, Fr Terry Kean, Peter Nicholson, Mark
Weinberg, Sophia.

**We periodically start our sick list again. If you have someone
you would like on the sick list please contact Jane at the office.
9531 6120 or jane@shscparish.org.au**

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

13 / 14 April 2024: Third Sunday of Easter

St Columba Welcomes

6pm Mass:

M: Michael Illott

C / L: Bronwyn Illott, Volunteer needed

Set up: Mahtab Bahadorinejad

9am Mass:

M: Bernadette Cheet, Frances Pititto

C / L: Lydia St Ange

Set up: Trevor Fletcher, Marcelle Garnier & Priscilla

Hospitality Roster: The Brazilians

Sacred Heart Welcomes

11am Mass:

M: Christina Siciliano

C / L: Oswald Fernandes, Kathleen Upfold

Set up: Natalia Setyawan

Prayer of the Faithful: Liturgy Committee